

AMENDED CLAIMS

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Original claims 1-12 replaced by new claims 1-39 (5 pages).]

1. A telephone terminal operable to transmit dialling information to a telephone network, the terminal having an operating text mode of entry for specifying a desired connection in which dialling information is entered in a form that comprises text and is transmitted from the terminal to the network.
2. A terminal as claimed in claim 1, in which the connection to be established is a voice connection.
3. A terminal as claimed in claim 1 or 2, that is a mobile terminal.
4. A terminal as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the terminal has key entry means operable to confirm the dialling information for transmission.
5. A terminal as claimed in claim 1, in which the terminal is operable to initiate a connection to the network by indialling to a service number.
6. A terminal as claimed in claim 5, in which the service number is predetermined, and may be in the form of an international number or a short code.
7. A terminal as claimed in claim 1, in which the terminal is operable to combine the step of entering as text and confirming the dialling information with the step of initiating a call to the network.
8. A terminal as claimed in claim 1, in which at least part of the dialling information transmission and processing time takes place in parallel with call set-up time for an indialled call to the network.
9. A terminal as claimed in claim 1, in which the terminal is operable to answer an outdialled call from the network in order to initiate the desired connection.

10. A terminal as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the terminal has key entry means to place the terminal into the operating text dialling mode from a standby mode.

11. A terminal as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the terminal can be switched to a numeric entry mode in which the terminal is operable to enter dialling information in a form that consists of numeric information, for transmission to the network.

12. A terminal as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the dialling information is transmitted by SMS, USSD or packet data.

13. A terminal as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, including a display operable to display a text calling line identity string received as part of a text communication, and operable on entry of a confirmatory action by the user to transmit the text string to the network, and to initiate automatically a connection to a service platform.

14. A method of operating a telephone terminal to transmit dialling information to a telephone network to establish a desired connection, the method comprising the step of placing the terminal into an operating text mode of entry for specifying the desired connection in which the dialling information is entered in a form that comprises text and is transmitted to the network.

15. A method as claimed in claim 14, in which the connection to be established is a voice connection.

16. A method as claimed in claim 14 or 15, in which the terminal is a mobile terminal.

17. A method as claimed in claim 14, 15 or 16, in which the terminal has key entry means operable to confirm the dialling information for transmission.
18. A method as claimed in claim 14, in which the terminal is operated to initiate connection to the network by dialling in to a service number.
19. A method as claimed in claim 18, in which the service number is predetermined, and may be in the form of an international number or a short code.
20. A method as claimed in claim 14, in which the terminal is operated to combine the step of entering as text and confirming the dialling information with the step of initiating a call to the network.
21. A method as claimed in claim 14, in which at least part of the dialling information transmission and processing time takes place in parallel with call set-up time for an indialled call to the network.
22. A method as claimed in claim 14, in which the terminal is operable to answer an outdialled call from the network in order to initiate the desired connection.
23. A method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 22, in which the terminal is placed into the operating text dialling mode from a standby mode.
24. A method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 23, in which the dialling information is transmitted to a telephone network that has a text dialling system including a voice services equipment for receiving the dialled information.
25. A method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 24, in which the dialling information is transmitted by SMS, USSD or packet data.

26. A method as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 26, in which the telephone terminal has a display, including displaying a text calling line identity string received as part of a text communication, and, upon entry of a confirmatory action by the user, transmitting the text string to the network, and initiating automatically a connection to a service platform.

27. A telecommunications system comprising a telephone network having a text dialling system that includes a voice services equipment, and a telephone terminal operable to transmit dialling information to the voice services equipment in the telephone network, the terminal having an operating text mode of entry for specifying a desired connection in which dialling information is entered in a form that comprises text and is transmitted from the terminal to the network.

28. A system as claimed in claim 27, in which the connection to be established is a voice connection.

29. A system as claimed in claim 27 or 28, in which the terminal is a mobile terminal.

30. A system as claimed in claim 27, 28 or 29, in which the terminal has key entry means operable to confirm the dialling information for transmission.

31. A system as claimed in claim 27, in which the terminal is operable to initiate a connection to the network by indialling to a service number.

32. A system as claimed in claim 31, in which the service number is predetermined, and may be in the form of an international number or short code.

33. A system as claimed in claim 27, in which the terminal is operable to combine the step of entering as text and confirming the dialling information with the step of initiating a call to the network.

34. A system as claimed in claim 27, in which at least part of the dialling information transmission and processing time takes place in parallel with call set-up time for an indialled call to the network.

35. A system as claimed in claim 27, in which the terminal is operable to answer an outdialled call from the network in order to initiate the desired connection.

36. A system as claimed in any one of claims 27 to 35, in which the terminal has key entry means to place the terminal into the operating text dialling mode from a standby mode.

37. A system as claimed in any one of claims 27 to 36, in which the terminal can be switched to a numeric entry mode in which the terminal is operable to enter dialling information in a form that consists of numeric information, for transmission to the network.

38. A system as claimed in any one of claims 27 to 37, in which the dialling information is transmitted by SMS, USSD or packet data.

39. A system as claimed in any one of claims 27 to 38, in which the terminal includes a display operable to display a text calling line identity string received as part of a text communication, and operable on entry of a confirmatory action by the user to transmit the text string to the network, and to initiate automatically a connection to a service platform.